

**AMENDMENT**

Please amend the application as follows, without prejudice, admission, surrender of subject matter, or intention of creating estoppel as to equivalents.

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Kindly amend the claims, without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents, as follows:

Claims 1-33 (canceled)

Claim 34 (new): A method for preventing occurrence of gastric ulcers in a horse about to undergo stress that causes gastric ulcers and prior to occurrence of gastric ulcer conditions in the horse, comprising administering to the horse an effective amount of omeprazole prior to, and optionally during, the stress.

Claim 35 (new): The method of claim 34 wherein the administering is prior to and during the stress.

Claim 36 (new): The method of claim 34, wherein the administering is daily.

Claim 37 (new): The method of claim 34 wherein the gastric ulcers comprise gastrointestinal ulcers.

Claim 38 (new): The method of claim 34 wherein the stress is training, transportation, change in environment, or pregnancy.

Claim 39 (new): The method of claim 34, wherein the effective amount of omeprazole is 0.1 to 8 mg per kilogram body weight.

Claim 40 (new): The method of claim 34, wherein the effective dose is about 50% of the usual dose for the treatment of ulcers in a horse.

Claim 41 (new): The method of claim 34, wherein the effective dose is about 25% of the usual dose for the treatment of ulcers in a horse.

Claim 42 (new): The method of claim 34, wherein the omeprazole is in the form of a formulation for controlled release.

Claim 43 (new): The method of claim 34, wherein the administering is oral and the omeprazole is in a formulation for oral administration.

Claim 44 (new): The method of claim 43, wherein the formulation is selected from the group consisting of oral solutions, oral suspensions, feed premix, pastes, gels, powder, granules, tablets, capsules and boli.